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MIDWEST INFORMATION OFFICE: Chicago, Ill.

Technical information: (312) 353-1880 • BLSInfoChicago@bls.gov • www.bls.gov/regions/midwest

Media contact: (312) 353-1138

Occupational Employment and Wages in Lincoln — May 2015

Workers in the Lincoln Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$20.92 in May 2015, about 10 percent below the nationwide average of \$23.23, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were lower than their respective national averages in 14 of the 22 major occupational groups including computer and mathematical; life, physical, and social science; and legal. One group had significantly higher wages than their respective national average.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 6 of the 22 occupational groups, including office and administrative support; business and financial operations; and community and social service. Conversely, nine groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including management; protective service; and installation, maintenance, and repair. (See [table A](#) and [box note](#) at end of release.)

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Lincoln Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2015

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Lincoln	United States	Lincoln	Percent difference ⁽¹⁾
Total, all occupations.....	100.0%	100.0%	\$23.23	\$20.92*	-10
Management.....	5.0	4.0*	55.30	48.33*	-13
Business and Financial Operations.....	5.1	6.0*	35.48	31.13*	-12
Computer and Mathematical.....	2.9	3.5*	41.43	29.78*	-28
Architecture and Engineering.....	1.8	1.6*	39.89	33.01*	-17
Life, Physical, and Social Science.....	0.8	1.2*	34.24	26.01*	-24
Community and Social Services.....	1.4	2.1*	22.19	17.90*	-19
Legal.....	0.8	0.6*	49.74	42.73*	-14
Education, Training, and Library.....	6.2	6.2	25.48	26.45	4
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media.....	1.3	1.5	27.39	21.59*	-21
Healthcare Practitioner and Technical.....	5.8	5.7	37.40	33.00*	-12
Healthcare Support.....	2.9	2.3*	14.19	14.11	-1
Protective Service.....	2.4	1.5*	21.45	20.80	-3
Food Preparation and Serving Related.....	9.1	8.8	10.98	10.25*	-7
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance.....	3.2	3.0*	13.02	11.73*	-10
Personal Care and Service.....	3.1	2.7	12.33	11.92	-3
Sales and Related.....	10.5	10.0*	18.90	16.48*	-13
Office and Administrative Support.....	15.8	17.7*	17.47	15.71*	-10
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry.....	0.3	0.1*	12.67	19.45*	54

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Lincoln Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2015 - Continued

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Lincoln	United States	Lincoln	Percent difference ⁽¹⁾
Construction and Extraction.....	4.0	4.1	22.88	19.39*	-15
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair.....	3.9	3.3*	22.11	21.82	-1
Production.....	6.6	6.7	17.41	17.74	2
Transportation and Material Moving.....	6.9	7.5*	16.90	19.09	13

⁽¹⁾ A positive percent difference measures how much the mean wage in Lincoln is above the national mean wage, while a negative difference reflects a lower wage.

* The percent share of employment or mean hourly wage for this area is significantly different from the national average of all areas at the 90-percent confidence level.

One occupational group—office and administrative support—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Lincoln had 30,350 jobs in office and administrative support, accounting for 17.7 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 15.8-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$15.71, significantly below the national wage of \$17.47.

Some of the larger detailed occupations within the office and administrative support group included office clerks, general (4,620); customer service representatives (3,730); and secretaries and administrative assistants, except legal, medical, and executive (2,840). Among the higher paying jobs were postal service mail sorters, processors, and processing machine operators (\$24.64) and postal service mail carriers (\$24.59). At the lower end of the wage scale were hotel, motel, and resort desk clerks (\$9.34) and stock clerks and order fillers (\$11.17). (Detailed occupational data for office and administrative support are presented in [table 1](#); for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to www.bls.gov/oes/2015/may/oes_30700.htm.)

Location quotients allow us to explore the occupational make-up of a metropolitan area by comparing the composition of jobs in an area relative to the national average. (See [table 1](#).) For example, a location quotient of 2.0 indicates that an occupation accounts for twice the share of employment in the area than it does nationally. In the Lincoln Metropolitan Statistical Area, above-average concentrations of employment were found in some of the occupations within the office and administrative support group. For instance, interviewers, except eligibility and loan were employed at 6.3 times the national rate in Lincoln, and insurance claims and policy processing clerks, at 2.1 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, secretaries and administrative assistants, except legal, medical, and executive had a location quotient of 1.0 in Lincoln, indicating that this particular occupation's local and national employment shares were similar.

These statistics are from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey, a federal-state cooperative program between BLS and State Workforce Agencies, in this case, the Nebraska Workforce Development.

Notes on Occupational Employment Statistics Data

With the issuance of data for May 2015, the OES program has incorporated redefined metropolitan area definitions as designated by the Office of Management and Budget. OES data are available for 394 metropolitan areas, 38 metropolitan divisions, and 167 OES-defined nonmetropolitan areas. A listing of the areas and their definitions can be found at www.bls.gov/oes/current/msa_def.htm.

A value that is statistically different from another does not necessarily mean that the difference has economic or practical significance. Statistical significance is concerned with the ability to make confident statements about a universe based on a sample. It is entirely possible that a large difference between two values is not significantly different statistically, while a small difference is, since both the size and heterogeneity of the sample affect the relative error of the data being tested.

Technical Note

The Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey is a semiannual mail survey measuring occupational employment and wage rates for wage and salary workers in nonfarm establishments in the United States. The OES program produces employment and wage estimates for over 800 occupations for all industries combined in the nation; the 50 states and the District of Columbia; 432 metropolitan areas and divisions; 167 nonmetropolitan areas; and Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. National estimates are also available by industry for NAICS sectors, 3-, 4-, and selected 5- and 6-digit industries, and by ownership across all industries and for schools and hospitals. OES data are available at www.bls.gov/oes/tables.htm.

OES estimates are constructed from a sample of about 1.2 million establishments. Forms are mailed to approximately 200,000 sampled establishments in May and November each year. May 2015 estimates are based on responses from six semiannual panels collected over a 3-year period: May 2015, November 2014, May 2014, November 2013, May 2013, and November 2012. The overall national response rate for the six panels is 73.5 percent based on establishments and 69.6 percent based on weighted sampled employment. The unweighted employment of sampled establishments across all six semiannual panels represents approximately 57.9 percent of total national employment. (Response rates are slightly lower for these estimates due to the federal shutdown in October 2013.) The sample in the Lincoln Metropolitan Statistical Area included 1,854 establishments with a response rate of 85 percent. For more information about OES concepts and methodology, go to www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.tn.htm.

The May 2015 OES estimates are based on the 2010 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system and the 2012 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Information about the 2010 SOC is available on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/soc and information about the 2012 NAICS is available at www.bls.gov/bls/naics.htm.

Metropolitan area definitions

The substate area data published in this release reflect the standards and definitions established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

The **Lincoln, Nebr. Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Lancaster and Seward Counties.

Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at www.bls.gov/regions/midwest. Answers to frequently asked questions about the OES data are available at www.bls.gov/oes/oes_ques.htm. Detailed technical information about the OES survey is available in our Survey Methods and Reliability Statement on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/oes/2015/may/methods_statement.pdf.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request . Voice phone: 202-691-5200; Federal Relay Service: 800-877-8339.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Lincoln Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2015

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level ⁽²⁾	Location quotient ⁽³⁾	Hourly	Annual ⁽⁴⁾
Office and Administrative Support Occupations.....	30,350	1.1	\$15.71	\$32,670
First-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers.....	1,910	1.1	23.25	48,360
Switchboard Operators, Including Answering Service.....	220	1.8	11.91	24,780
Bill and Account Collectors.....	(5)	(5)	19.77	41,130
Billing and Posting Clerks.....	390	0.6	15.56	32,360
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks.....	2,350	1.2	16.34	33,980
Payroll and Timekeeping Clerks.....	150	0.7	18.93	39,370
Procurement Clerks.....	120	1.3	16.75	34,840
Tellers.....	640	1.0	11.52	23,970
Brokerage Clerks.....	50	0.7	20.65	42,940
Court, Municipal, and License Clerks.....	100	0.6	18.00	37,440
Credit Authorizers, Checkers, and Clerks.....	50	0.9	16.21	33,710
Customer Service Representatives.....	3,730	1.2	15.18	31,580
Eligibility Interviewers, Government Programs.....	80	0.5	17.24	35,860
File Clerks.....	80	0.5	12.72	26,460
Hotel, Motel, and Resort Desk Clerks.....	230	0.8	9.34	19,440
Interviewers, Except Eligibility and Loan.....	1,440	6.3	13.08	27,200
Library Assistants, Clerical.....	60	0.5	12.86	26,750
Loan Interviewers and Clerks.....	340	1.3	19.97	41,530
New Accounts Clerks.....	190	3.1	16.03	33,340
Order Clerks.....	430	1.9	12.01	24,970
Human Resources Assistants, Except Payroll and Timekeeping.....	240	1.4	17.93	37,300
Receptionists and Information Clerks.....	1,110	0.9	12.73	26,470
Couriers and Messengers.....	200	2.2	11.71	24,350
Police, Fire, and Ambulance Dispatchers.....	80	0.7	18.96	39,430
Dispatchers, Except Police, Fire, and Ambulance.....	190	0.8	19.29	40,110
Postal Service Clerks.....	80	0.8	22.77	47,360
Postal Service Mail Carriers.....	300	0.8	24.59	51,140
Postal Service Mail Sorters, Processors, and Processing Machine Operators.....	110	0.8	24.64	51,260
Production, Planning, and Expediting Clerks.....	280	0.7	23.10	48,040
Shipping, Receiving, and Traffic Clerks.....	380	0.5	16.22	33,730
Stock Clerks and Order Fillers.....	2,100	0.9	11.17	23,240
Weighers, Measurers, Checkers, and Samplers, Recordkeeping.....	80	0.9	17.17	35,710
Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants.....	1,440	1.7	20.90	43,460
Legal Secretaries.....	180	0.7	17.50	36,400
Medical Secretaries.....	560	0.9	17.29	35,960
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive.....	2,840	1.0	16.12	33,530
Computer Operators.....	160	2.5	17.34	36,060
Data Entry Keyers.....	290	1.2	13.87	28,860
Word Processors and Typists.....	60	0.8	15.19	31,600
Desktop Publishers.....	40	2.7	16.63	34,590
Insurance Claims and Policy Processing Clerks.....	680	2.1	17.93	37,300
Mail Clerks and Mail Machine Operators, Except Postal Service.....	210	1.8	13.04	27,130
Office Clerks, General.....	4,620	1.3	12.22	25,410
Office Machine Operators, Except Computer.....	50	0.6	14.37	29,880

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Lincoln Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2015 - Continued

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level ⁽²⁾	Location quotient ⁽³⁾	Hourly	Annual ⁽⁴⁾
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other.....	250	0.8	18.89	39,290

⁽¹⁾ For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in the Lincoln Metropolitan Statistical Area, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_30700.htm.

⁽²⁾ Estimates for detailed occupations do not sum to the totals because the totals include occupations not shown separately. Estimates do not include self-employed workers.

⁽³⁾ The location quotient is the ratio of the area concentration of occupational employment to the national average concentration. A location quotient greater than one indicates the occupation has a higher share of employment than average, and a location quotient less than one indicates the occupation is less prevalent in the area than average.

⁽⁴⁾ Annual wages have been calculated by multiplying the hourly mean wage by a 'year-round, full-time' hours figure of 2,080 hours; for those occupations where there is not an hourly mean wage published, the annual wage has been directly calculated from the reported survey data.

⁽⁵⁾ Estimates not released.